

NOV 16 2005

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COMMISSION
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BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION-

In the Matter of)
) MUR 5453
Greg Bedula, William Wittman,)
and James Nelson)

SENSITIVE

GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT #16

I. ACTIONS RECOMMENDED

Accept the attached conciliation agreements from Greg Bedula, William Wittman

and James Nelson ("Respondents" or "the Vice Presidents"), close the files as to these

Respondents and approve the appropriate letters.

II. BACKGROUND

In April 2000, a Senior Vice President of BankNorth/Arthur A. Watson &

Company, Inc. ("the Company") approached the then-President of the Company, with the

idea that employees of the Company should make contributions to the Giordano for U.S.

Senate Committee ("the Committee"). As a result, the Vice Presidents each made a

\$2,000 contribution (on behalf of themselves and their spouses) to the Committee, for

which the Company fully reimbursed them.

On January 24, 2005,¹ the Commission found reason to believe that the Vice

Presidents knowingly and willfully violated 2 U.S.C. § 441f of the Federal Election

Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act").²

¹ As the Commission is aware, although this matter was activated in 2003, the Vice Presidents' identities and actions were only discovered in late December 2004 as a result of our investigation. Due to tolling agreements signed by the Vice Presidents, the statute of limitations will not run until April 2006.

² All of the facts in this matter occurred prior to the effective date of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 ("BCRA"), Pub. L. 107-155, 116 Stat. 81 (2002). Accordingly, unless specifically noted to the contrary, all citations to the Act herein are as it read prior to the effective date of BCRA and all citations to the Commission's regulations herein are to the 2000 edition of Title 11, Code of Federal Regulations, which was published prior to the Commission's promulgation of any regulations under BCRA.

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14 **III. DISCUSSION**

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16 IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

17 1. Accept the attached conciliation agreement submitted by Greg Bedula.

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19 2. Accept the attached conciliation agreement submitted by James Nelson.

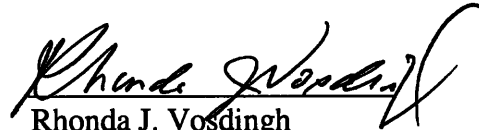
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3. Accept the attached conciliation agreement submitted by William Wittman.
4. Close the file as to Greg Bedula, James Nelson, and William Wittman.
5. Approve the appropriate letters.

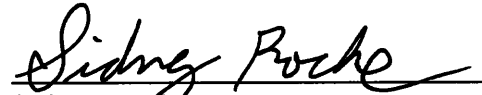
Lawrence H. Norton
General Counsel

11/16/05
Date

BY:



Rhonda J. Vosdinger
Associate General Counsel for Enforcement



Sidney Roche
Assistant General Counsel



Alexandra Dumas
Attorney

Attachments:

1. Copy of signed conciliation agreements and copy of civil penalty checks
2. Affidavit of Greg Bedula
3. Affidavit of James Nelson
4. Affidavit of William Wittman
5. Affidavit of Thomas Willsey

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